



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/305,146	05/04/1999	GEORGE V. GUYAN	ANDIP069	1663

29838 7590 05/06/2002

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY, LLP (ACCENTURE)
1400 PAGE MILL ROAD
PALO ALTO, CA 94304

EXAMINER

RIMELL, SAMUEL G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/305,146

Applicant(s)

GUYAN ET AL

Examiner

Sam Rimell

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 3626
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 3626

Claims 22-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 22: The phrase “a plurality of levels, such as a policy level, a claim level, a participant level and a line level” is rendered indefinite by the phrase “such as”. By using such language, it is not clear whether the claim requires all of the level types to exist, some of the level types to exist, or none of the level types to exist.

Claim 34: This claim contains the same defect as claim 22.

Claims 23-33 and 35-40: Each of these claims are indefinite since they relate to features which were recited as optional in the independent claims. Accordingly, these claims may be related to features which do not necessarily exist in the invention, making the scope of each claim indeterminate.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Art Unit: 3626

Claims 22-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lau ('247).

Lau discloses a client component (304,305) in the form of a user display and processor which provide information concerning individuals (see people in FIG. 5), and events (the creation of an insurance policy, col. 7, line 62). The business logic design resides on a server component (col. 4, line 48). Any application program residing and running on the server is a "task engine application program". This includes the operating system controlling the server. The operating system running on the server will interact with the processor (305), which reads as the "event processor". The event processor in turn interacts with the claim folder (See Panes 1 and 2 in FIG. 5). As seen in pane 1 of FIG. 5, each claim folder defines a plurality of levels.

The types of levels in the claim folder, such as "policy level", "claim level", "participant level" and line level are recited as optional, which means that they may not necessarily even be part of the invention. Given that each of these features are optional, the minimum requirement is that these features do not exist. Accordingly, the claims may be interpreted as though these features do not in fact exist, and no patentable weight will be attributed to their recitation. The dependant claims 23-33 and 35-40 do not resolve this ambiguity, and is not clear whether these claims actually require the existence of level types, since they always remain optional. Accordingly, the claims have been interpreted as though no level types are required.

Remarks

Applicant's arguments regarding the Lau reference have been considered but are not well taken.

The usage of the phrase "such as" to define level types means that the level types are optional, and may not even exist. This raises the question as to whether all of the options exist,

Art Unit: 3626

some of the options exist, or none of the options exist, triggering multiple rejections under 35 USC 112.

The Lau reference is maintained as a basis of rejection since the use of optional level types allow for the possibility that none of the level types exist in the invention. Lau does disclose a client component and server component communicating with the client component and an insurance folder with levels. The level types are interpreted as not being part of the invention, by reason that each level type is optional rather than mandatory.

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the parent application prior to the filing of this Continued Prosecution Application under 37 CFR 1.53(d) and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing under 37 CFR 1.53(d). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3626

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Sam Rimell at telephone number (703) 306-5626.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rimell', written in a cursive style.

Sam Rimell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3626